THE CANALS.

An Unveiling of the Mystery and the Manipulations of Fraud.

Advent of the Hour and the Man.

Governor Tilden's Assault Intended To Be Effective.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE WORK.

The Legislative Investigation a Sham.

CANAL CONTRACTS RESCINDED.

ALBANY, April 8, 1875. Sovernor Tilden's assault upon the Canal Ring, it it did not come without warning, had all the effect of a bombshed suddenly hurled into the camp of his triends. The announcement of his purpose occasioned derision rather than lear, and so when the shock came the consternation was overwhelming and complete. Frauds on the canals are coeval with the canals themselves, and the system of fraudulent contracts by unbalanced bids is a growth, rather than the deliberately formed plan of a ring. The law said that work on the canais was to be let to the lowest bidder, and so the contract was given to the person whose bid in the aggregate was the lowest. It will thus be seen that at the very outset skill in bidding became an art, in which every contractor was justified in using his own acuteness to make money. The state furnished a basis for the bidding, not for the benefit of the contractor, but for the protection of the people. This basis, though prepared by an engineer, could at best be only a guess. The contractor understood and the State insisted that whatever was necessary to complete the work must be done at the price named in the old. Thus if a contractor undertook to do a thousand yards of rock excavation at a ridiculously small price, and 10,000 yards were required to be done, he was bound to do the whole at his own price. He might be ruined in this way, but at the same time if he knew better than the engineer the kind and character of the work that would be required, he might so mould his bid as to make a fortune. The contract necessarily included several kinds of work, as earth and rock excavation and vertical and slope wall, besides the kinds of lumber to be furnished. The estimate of the engineer was intended as a mere basis for the bidding, and the letting was made to the person whose bid was the lowest in the aggregate. Out of this system sprung what are known as "unbalanced bids," and this parase in turn conveys the full significance of "canal frauds." Taking these estimates as the foundation for the bidding. with the requirements as to quantity and price. it

was impossible for an honest bidder to obtain a

contract at all, and it was not long until honest

contractors remsed to contend with the sharpers

nursed by the system, and the Canal Ring obtained

the complete mastery of the State. HOW CANAL CONTRACTS WERE LET. It will thus be seen that the whole system was in itself a fraud; but I fear I have not yet made it plain wherein it is necessarily fraudulent. This it is difficult to do in a few words, while an elaborate explanation would only make the mystery more profound. Somebody has defined protection as the robbery of all for the benefit of a lew. So I would define canal frauds as an agreement to do work that would not be required to be done at an absurdly low price and work that would be required in great quantities or amounts at a wickedly high rate. Two points are to be conidered by the contractor-to bid low enough to obtain the contract and yet make money. It is the aggregate of a bid that determines the first of these questions, and the application of the estimate to the real work will determine the second. If the contractor has a better knowledge or the requirements of the contract than the engineer-that is, if he knows to a nicer degree the quantity of work of each kind to be done-be can scarcely fail to bid low enough to get the contract and fleece the State. Being sure there is little or no rock excavation to be done or that no vertical wall will be required he may undertake both at a nominal price while putting earth excavation and slope wall, of which he will be required to do a great deal, at very high figures. In doing this he is not pecessarily dishonest, though the contract is itself a fraud. Neither is the engineer necessarily in collusion with the contractor, though his estimate is the foundation of the fraud. The disease is in the system, for these so-called unbalanced bids are indeed so articly balanced that the sontractor generally obtains three or four times the amount of his bid for the work actually sone. While the system lasts he is not much to blame for balancing the different kinds of work the engineer says are to be done so nicely as to make his the lowest bid; and as the State makes the contract an open one, it is not in human nature to refuse to take advantage of it. The cure would be in letting out the different ginds of work different contractors-as rock excavation to one and earth excavation to another, vertical wall to one and slope wall to another-at a fixed price. As it is let in the lump to one contractor at disproportionate prices, regard being had only to the aggregate the bid while the contract itself is an open and flexible one, traud, in fact, is inevitable, though there may be no fraud in the performance of the contract according to the terms of the agreement. Collusion with the engineers may previously have entered into it and false measurements may subsequently intensify the wrong, but neither of these is necessary to the fraud, and the worst contracts yet exhibited may be explained without either of these elements being found to enter into them. The great wrong is in the system of bidding, and the bids have been made in this way from the earliest days of canal enterprise. As I said before, canal trauds have been a growth, and the Canal Ring forms a part of that growth as naturally as the flower becomes a part of the plant. We may see "fraud" written all over the canal management of the State without being able to bring absolute crime home to anybody, whether contractor, engineer or official, and it is certain we shall never be able to cure

canal frauds, are nothing now. This is true, and it has a greater significance tash at first appears. The newspapers have taken up the subject from time to time at frequent intervals during the last twenty years, and that the management of the canals was corrupt has been generally accepted as an established fact. The whole question was the subject of a long and earnest discussion in the Constitutional Convention of 1867, and the necessity of reform was demonstrated as clearly then as it is now by Governor Tilden. Ever since the days of Governor Fish any executive of the State indight have done what Tilden has accombinated by his coup d'ciat. The figures which prove the fraudulent character of the canal system have been lying in the Anditor's office for years, waiting the advent of some arithmetic man who would give them vitality. This could not be done, however, except year exceptional man exceptionally placed. Duarges and strength and high position were all fequired for its accomplishment. Governor Tilden himself told me that it an engineer thoroughly conversant with the whole sudject, and armed with figures and arguments, had undertaken the lask he would now be in completely overborne and beaten, indeed, that class of men, either because their some sickoned at the corruption they were compelled to witness, or because the King Penned form a share in the spoils, lave all along been trying to make home how with the story of that d it was let to Thaten to make effective.

State officers were enriching themselves at the expense of the people; that the engineers who prepared the estimates upon which toe bids were made were in collusion with the bidders, and that State officers were enriching themselves at the expense of the people; that the engineers who prepared the estimates upon which the bidders, and that false measurements supplemented transduction and word that false measurements supplemented transduction and that false measurements supplemented transduction as much wrong. As he every case of this kind, it was necessary to wait for the time and the man. Frequent attempts and frequent faintres proved this; but when the time came and the man arrived the accomplishment of the work was comparatively easy. Ten years of corruption and extrawagance had wearred the people with their excesses, and in 1871 the reaction set in against the riotous living which began with the war in 1861. Stealing from one public trensury, so long regarded as a trivial, it not altogether commendation vice, was seen at last in its frue light by virtuous persons. Tweed fell from power, and, though in the very face and in defance of his crimes ne was elected to the Senate one year, he was sent to the reintentiary the next. A revolution had been accomplished, and the person most active in accomplishing it was Samuel J. Thoen. Let those deny him the credit of this achievement who may, the fact has the force of history, and this together with the reaction against the correptionists, elected him Governor in 1874. Naturally active and earnest, as well as acute and amoitious, he saw the tide that was bearing him on to fortune, and so be resolved to rule the waves, instead of being merely carried by them. More capable than King cample, he net only commanded but was occyed. The circumstances are apt to be, insignificant. Young Horatio Seymour, a rephew of his distingtished uncle, was a division cigineer. He had entered upon the work contrary to his uncle's wishes, but, hike his uncle, he was honest, and meant to do his work honestly. It was not long, however, until he was pointely requested to certify to some alise measurements by some of the member of the Capital. He has an idea, and sometimes expresse

was required to unravet them, so as to make them useful even to the Governor, who is himself no mean arithmetician. This task was undertaken by Mr. Davis, a democratic member of the Assembly from Washington county, Davis was thoroughly conversant with the canais and canai management. He was a prominent witness in the impeachment trial of Canai Commissioner Dorn in 1868, and his testimony was traversed and he was rather severely traduced by the friends of the Ring at that time. He owed them no goodwill in consequence and resolved to study their misdoings unto their undoing. When Triden resolved to make war on the Ring Davis became his first heutenant, and he it was who enabled the Governor to apply the four rules of arithmetic to the canai contracts with so much vigor and effect. The first broadside went through the tim defences of the Ring like the saotted guns of a Yankee frigate brought to bear upon the calico forts of the Corea. Its full affect was not immediately apparent, and while the smoke was clearing away the execrations of the enemy were terrible. Senator Loid was so exasperated that he was betrayed into talking what he felt to a Heratip reporter—an indiscretion on his part that is next to inconceivable. Mr. Alvord was full of wrath and fury. Speaker McGuire was "out of his head," and he publicly and privately took issue with the Governor, thereby destroying his own political prospects in a week. The Assembly was ready to stand by the Speaker, though compelied to sustain the Governor also. But when the skies cleared it was yound the Governor had gained a complete victory. His preparations had been masterly and the enemy was utterly destroyed. Thicen had demanded a commission to investigate the charges contained in his Message, and, immediately upon the effect of his assault being discerned, the irrends of the Canai Ring became the loudest advocates of investigation. Speaker McGuire declared he would esteem it as a mark of want of confidence in him unless he was allowed to name an investigating committ

the present machinery for investigation into ex-stence. There is first the Governor's commission the present machinery for investigation into existence. There is first the Governor's commission, upon which the really important inquiries will devolve. It consists of four Commissioners, nominated by the Governor, and in the matter of compelling the attendance of witnesses and requiring them to testify, it is clothed by law with the authority of a Court of Record. It is empowered to inquire, not only into the letting of contracts by the Canal Commissioners, but into the general management of the Canal Board and the awards of the Canal Appraisers. The only limit of the inquiry is as to time, which is not to extend further back than 1868. Practically it is a special Grand Jury, to hold a grand inquest on the pact of the State upon all matters touching the canals, and it is expected, as the result of its labors, that they will seed much light upon the mysteries which are generally designated as "canal frauss." It is the only Board which it was the purpose of Governor Tilden's Message to obtain from the Legislature and through it he expects to attain all his aims in the purification of the canal system. his aims in the purification of the canal system, it is the great car of Jurgernaut which is to crunch the bodies of the contriving contractors and corrupt engineers who have so offended public morality. It will thus be seen that it is not only the principal part of the machinery required lie morality. It will thus be seen that it is not only the principal part of the machinery required for the proposed investigation but that the other investigating machines must contribute to its effectiveness or become utierly ineffective. There are no fewer than three other committees charged with inquiring into canal affairs. One of these is the joint committee of the Senate and Assembly now constituted after much difficulty, and required to report within thirty days. It is impossible that its labors can have any real significance, and its appointment only shows how absurdily a double for of otherwise sensible statesmen may behave. The thirty days allotted to its task will expire before it can even begin to investigate, and then it will be discharged without pretending to have had an excuse for existing at all, unless, indeed, it should crown the absurdity of its organization by making a report. Then again the Senate Committee on Canais is instructed to make inquires let to the charges at both ends of the Eric Canai which are a tax upon the traffic of the great highway of the State. This investigation is specially aimed at the elevator men in Buffalo and the warehouse men and Produce Exchange people in New York, and, though a little spiteful in its purpose and without any real relation to the general question of canal management, it is not likely that whatever light obtained will do any harm. I am inclined to think, however, that Senator Cole's committee will not add very largely to the general fund of canal information. Besides these toe committee will not add very largely to the general fund of canal information. Besides these the Canal Board has appointed Lieutenint Governor Dorsheimer, Secretary of Stave Willers and Attorney General Pratt to examine existing contracts, with a view to ascertaining wrongs and suggesting remedies. It must be confessed that the purpose these gentlemen have in view is practical at least in intention, for nothing can be more important than to annul existing contracts if they are fraulent, to recover money unjustly drawn from the State Treasury and to punish state others who have been in collusion with puolic from the State Ireasury and to punish state out-cers who have been in collision with puolic thieves. It then appears from this hasty giance at the machinery for investigation that only two of the inquiring podies have any real importance and that these most work together if they would at-tain the great objects of the inquiry—the remedy for the inture and restitution and punishment for the past.

THE WORK TO BE DONE.

Some crude notion of the immensity of the work to be performed by Governor Triden's commission and by the advision and assisting committee of the Canal Board may be formed from what I have already said of the nature of the contracts they are to investigate. It is not to be assumed that the contractors, however fraudulent their contracts, have recklessly placed themselves in the power of the law even under the Civil Remedies acc. Fraud is not always capable of proof, even where of the law even under the Civil hemselies acc. Fraud is not always capacie of proof, even where it is known to exist, and it will be found more difficult to prove collusion between contractor and engineer than to demonstrate the fraud lised. Indeed, it may be impossible to establish collusion even where the contract is fraudulent on its face. Let us suppose a case. The engineer estimates that 1,000 yards or gravel and 10,000 yards of rock are to be excavated somewhere on the like of the canal. A. is a contractor and other incompletes of the canal. A. is a contractor and other to the text of the canal of the c

10,00) yards graves excavation at \$1 per yard.... \$10,000

ties, and yet collusion is not a necessary ingre-dient of it. The offer to do rock excavation at a cent a yard white a collar a yard was asked for graves would be a fraud on its face, but the engi-neer could not be connected with it even were the amounts of work to be done atterward reversed without some proofs of actual collusion. It might

a state of facts, so remarkable and so extreme, would probably satisfy an individual man or most men, but it would not content a fury unless some other testimony was adduced bearing upon the same point. And this is just the kind of difficulty that will embarrass the investigations of the Canal Commission, especially in the direction of restitution and punishment, while if these cannot be gained the practical part of the inquiry will go lor nothing. The work to be done is almost bilimitable, both in scope and purpose, and it will require the highest ability to keep it within practical cuannels. Every conlished, the investigation, not in one case only, but in all cases, will only have began to assume importance. Proof of collusion between the contractor and the engineers will be the next step in the inquiry, and this, to be complete, must include the relations of the Canail Commissioners and the State officers who compose the Canail Board to each particular contract. The awards of the canail appraisers will have to be inquired into, under the resolutions, as well as the lettings of the Canail Commissioners, and thus is opened up another almost boundless expanse for exploration. Besides all this, corrupt legislation from year to year has been one of the most important elements in the canail rands, and this phase of the question will have to be inquired into with as much thorougeness as any of the others. And, finally, as the canail rands are a growth from year to year, of which the Canail Ring is only a part, and not an accidental crop, it will be found necessary to go back much further than 1888 to give the report of the commission bistorical completeness or even to deduce the philosophy when explains the existence and growth of that parasite of canal enterprise we call by the name of the Canail Ring. It will thus be seen that if Governor Tilden intends fighting it out on the line he has chosen it will not only take all summer, but require as much time as Grant required to go from Spottsylvania to Apponatiox.

This Legislative investigations.

time as Grant required to go from Spottsylvania to Appoint of the Legislative investigations.

There can be no doubt that the proposed legislative investigations are intended to cover up the frauds. Both inquiries—that in the hands of the Joint committee of the two houses and that committed to the Senate Committee on Canals—originated with the Friends of the Canal Ring or with the king itself. Beside, both committees are in the charge of Senator Cole, a statesman who has never shown an implacable hostility to the Canal Ring, though constantly in the way of feeing the blandishments of that powerful organization. His colleagues from the Senate on the joint committee, Jacobs and Booth, are both men of character and ability, and the three members on the part of the Assembly, Messes, Faulkner, Sherman and Seward, are all respectable and worthy genacter and abilit, and the three members on the part of the Assembly, Messrs. Faulkner, Sherman and Seward, are all respectable and worthy gentlemen, if not first class detectives. They are to find out all about canal management in thirty days—a work that will require a year at the very least—and Senator Cole is also charged with exposing the franks of our artificial waterways, trade societies and other organizations which are a tax upon the traffic of our artificial waterways. They can do nothing whatever that they were ostensibly appointed to do, and I do not think they will seriously attempt to do anything. Their appointment is a farce played to the end, because Senator Lord lost his temper and Speaker MoGuire his nead when Governor Tilden Spring his war on the Canal Ring upon them. They made a mistake so grievous that their committee would not dare whitewash the Ring, even if it had a wish to do so, and bence probably spring the fact that it was so constituted that it could have no such desire. So far as the legislative investigations are concerned appearances will be saved by very little being attempted.

GOVERNOR TILDEN AND THE CANAL FRAUDS. There need be into lear that Governor Tilden will combat the canal iradds in the inture as he has combatted them in the past. His reputation depends upon his making no compromises

by very little being attempted.

GOVERNOR TILDEN AND THE CANAL FRAUDS.
There need be no lear that Governor Tilden will combat the canal trauds in the future as he has compatted them in the past. His reputation depends upon his making no compromises in this matter. There has been a conjecture that he would be disposed to let up easily on the irandulent contractors if they allowed him to have his own way, but it must not be forgotten that he is a man in whom there is no "let up." He has put his hand to the plough and will not look back, but he likes a little dramatic effect, and is likely to make a good deal of noise over the irands developed by the investigation. The long lane of canal rascantly has got a turning at last, and fliden cannot lorget that he was the man who first brought the members of the Ring to their knees. Having got them in that attiende he will keep them there, both for repentance and punishment, and as their downfall helps him to the Presidency, it will be all the more giorious for Samuei J. Tilden.

The Senate to-day condrined the Governor's nomination of the tollowing four gentlemen as Commissioners for the investigation of the canal frauds.—John Bigsiow, or New York; Daniel Magone, of Ordensburg: Alexander E. Orr, of Brocklyn, and John D. Van Buren, Jr., of New York.

There is a prevailing impression that the investigation will be a disappointment to the general public. Uncer the Civil Remedies bill, recently passed, the Attorney General has commission is intended to provide him with evidence for the civil suits.

The following contracts, let March 17, have just

to search all frauds. This commission is intended to provide him with evidence for the civil suits.

RESCINDED CONTRACTS.

The following contracts, let March 17, have just been rescinded by the Board of Canal Commissioners, or the ground that, being below the engtheer's estimate, it was not possible for the contractors to do the work at the amount of their bids;—
For constructing a vertical wall in Rome from James street, east, over the Black River Canal, Engineer's estimate, \$3,000. Contract awarded to Thomas L. Hopkins, of Syracuse, at \$1,175.

For a wrought from bridge at Mayhaw street, Utica. Engineer's estimate, \$2,500. Contract awarded to M. A. Nash, of Fort Edward, at \$1,409.

For a vertical wall at the Agricultural Works, Schenectady. Engineer's estimate, \$3,000. Contract awarded to James Lewis, at \$1,089 70.

For a vertical wall between Kenyon's and Coleman's Locks, Glenn's Falls Fedder. Engineer's estimate, \$2,300. Contract awarded to Daniel Candee, of Syracuse, at \$195.

For a vertical wall at Brown's Bridge, Glenn's Palls Feeder. Engineer's estimate, \$2,200. Contract awarded to Daniel Candee, of Syracuse, at \$195.

ACTION OF THE HOUSE.

At the evening session of the Assembly to-night Mr. Page from the Canal Committe reported the canal reform bil introduced by Mr. Davis, of Washington county, with amendments embracing the recommendations contained in the Governor's Washington county, with amendments embracing the recommendations contained in the Governor's hedsage. It adoltshes the office of Canai Superintendent, to take effect on the 1st of January next; provides for the appointment of three paymasters, one for each division; limits contracts to proposals, but allows the Canai Board in cases of necessity to extend or increase contracts to the extent of ten per cent of the amount of the contract; but in case the additional cost exceeds ten per cent the contract must be closed and relet.

Mr. Sage reported adversely on the bill extend-ing the powers of the Canal Board concerning rational freights. Mr. Shattuck opposed this report, but it was agreed to.
Also invorably on the bill providing for the levying of a tax of seven-eights of a bill for extraordinary repairs on the canals.
CANAL JOINT INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE
The joint Canal levestigating Committee held its
first business meeting this alternoon at the Auditor's office.

auditor Francis S. Thayer was the first witness sworn. He said the present system of ordinary

Additor Francis S. Thayer was the first witness sworn. He said the present system of ordinary repairs is under the superintending system. The system began January I, 1874. All the old repair contracts expired December 21, 1873. He said the superintendents make up an estimate of what it will cost to keep their sections in repair for two moutas. The estimate is for material and labor. These estimates are submitted to the Canal Commissioner in charge, who examines them and on their approval they are forwarded to the Auditor's office. The Auditor then gives the superintendent autoority to draw on the estimates and at the end of every two montas vouchers are submitted. No account with a superintendent is ever closed by setting the amount of materials which he may have on hand at any one time, save when there is a change of superintendents. The men on the works are employed by the superinwhich he may have on hand at any one time, save when there is a change of superintendents. The men on the works are employed by the superin-tendents. Their compensation is fixed by the Canal Commissioners. The estimates made by the su-perintendents are paid out of the revenue of the

canni.

In answer to a question if he knew any objection to the present system the Auditor replied that he thought it would be an improvement if the payments were made by paymasters and not by the

ments were made by paymasters and not by the superintendents.

The witness was then interrogated in regard to extraordinary repairs. He said that a great many of the heaviest items were inserted by the Legislature in the committees of the whole and not by the canal committees. No extraordinary repair work can be done save by authority of the Legislature. The Auditor thought that the accuracy and truthulness of all work performed in contracts was known by the Assistant Engineer alone. The man who makes the ant Engineer atone. The man who makes the original estimate and the Assistant Engineer are the only ones knowing what work ought to se of is done. The Division Engineer swears to the completion of the work but has only a general knowledge of it. He must rely almost exclusively on the engineer in charge. The Auditor explained the manner in which estimates were received and the moneys paid to contractors. When money was available it was paid, but when the appropriation was dedicted to appropriations intenued for other work were invaded, although it may have been done in exceptional cases. It had not been done during the term of office of the present incombent. When a specific appropriation had seen made for a particular piece of work and it is not found sufficient, the amount additional required is taken from a general appropriation. The Auditor did not know by what authority this transier of funds was made by the Canal Board; heyer heard of a case where the work required was cone for less than the amount appropriated. Nearly every contractor has a bill for extra work; it is paid at the final adjustment, and does not come in on the wonthip estimates.

counsel then announced the examination of out the inquiries.

The committee adjourned, to meet at the same time and piace to-morrow afternoon. The whole sont Committee were present, with their counsel, llow. Heary Smith and Mr. R. W. Fockam. THE RING SUITS.

TWEED'S REAL ESTATE ATTACHED-THE PROP-The following notice of action was filed against William M. Tweed yesterday in the office of the

embraces everything known to be in the possession

of Tweed at the time of the exposure and which he passed into the hands of other parties. he passed into the hands of other parties.

SUPREME Count-Oily and County of New York,
Against William M. Tweed and the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonatty of the city of New York.

Notice is hereby given that an action has been
commenced in this court upon a complaint of the
above named plaintiffs against the above named
defendadts for wronginily obtaining and receiving
money and property belonging to the county of
New York and for wronginity converting such
money and property while holding a public office,
in which action the plaintiffs demand judgment
thereupon for the sum of \$6,198,957 88, and that a
warrant of attachment order, title 7, part 2 of

thereupon for the sum of \$6,198,057 88, and that a warrant of attachment order. title 7, part 2 of Code of Procedure, was on the 6th day of Aeri, 1875, duly issued in this action against the defendant. Wilham M. Tweed, by this court, and directed to the Snerilf of the county of New York and delivered to him for execution, whereby the following real property is intended to be affected:—
Duane street, north side, 100 feet east of Broadway, 125x75x105x25x20x50.

Kingsoridge road, west side, about 11% acres, Fort Washington.

Kingsbridge road, adjoining above, Hacres, Fort Washington.

Kingsbridge road, adjoining above, Hacres, Fort Washington.
Broadway. northeast corner of Twenty-first street, 102.5x123.11x08.9x98.9.
Ninth street, north side, 100 feet west of Third avenue, 75x92.
Ninth street, south side, 329 feet west of Second avenue, 21x75.
Twenty-third street, south side, 250 feet east of Fourth avenue, 23x98.9. Twenty-lourth street, north side, 260 feet west

of Third avenue, 44x98.4

Fortieth street, south side, 150 feet east of Madison avenue, 20xus.s. Fitty-minth street, northwest corner of Grand circle, runs west 34.3x north 75.5x east 25x south 20x east 17.7 to Grand circle x southwest, 51.2 to

25x east 17.7 to Grand circle x southwest, 51.2 to beginning.

Fitty-eighth street, south side, 375 feet west of xinth avenue, 50x10.5.

Fitty-seventh street, north side, 125 feet west of Ninth avenue, 100x100.5.

Forty-second street, south side, 125 feet west of Eighth avenue, 125x100.5.

Sixty-third street, north side, 125 feet west of Eighth avenue, 125x100.5.

Seventy-fourth street, south side, 200 feet east of Eleventh avenue, 25x18xy5.5x153.

Seventy-fourth street, south side, 350 feet east of Eleventh avenue, 25x140.5x50.1x142.11.

Eighty-fourth street, south side, 175 feet east of Ninth avenue, 25xx5 block.

Eighty-third street, north side, 175 feet east of Ninth avenue, 25xx5 block.

Lighty-third street, north side, 175 feet east of Ninth avenue, 25xx5 block.

Lighty-third street, north side, 175 feet east of Ninth avenue, 25xx5 block.

loomingdaie road, the entire block.
129th street, south side, 100 leet west Fourth Taird avenue, southeast corner Sixty-third

Fourth avenue and Madison avenue, Sixty-third to Sixty-ninth street, block.
Fourth avenue and Madison avenue, Sixty-ninth to Seventieth street, block.
Fourth avenue, southwest corner 129th street, 90.11x100.
Fourth avenue, southeast corner 129th street, 100.11x100. Fourth avenue, southeast corner 105th street, 100.11x350.
Fith avenue, south side, 82 feet 2 inches north of Enginy-fourth street, 20x126.

Fith avenue, south side, \$2 feet 2 inches north of Eighty-fourth street, 20x125.

Eighth avenue, northwest corner of Fifty-eighth street, runs west 100 feet x north 100.5 feet x east 25 feet x north 100.5 feet x fifty-ninth street x cast 14.10 feet to Grand circle x south east fifty-third street, 33.2 feet x south 68.10 to centre of block x east Forty-fifth to west side Grand circle x south-east 122.5 to west side of Eighth avenue x south 40.5 feet.

Eighth avenue, west side, 125.5 feet south of Seventy-first street, 25x100 feet.

Eighth avenue, west side, 50 feet south of 115th street 50.5 feet x 100.

-Fifth avenue, east side, 82.2 feet north of Eighty-fourth street, 20x125 feet.

Fifth avenue, southeast corner of Forty-third street, 20x125 feet.

Forty-third street, south side, 123 feet east of

street, 62.11x123 feet.
Forty-third street, south side, 123 feet east of
Filta avenue, 10x100.5 feet.
Filteenth street, north side, 370 feet east of
Seventh avenue 20x103.3 feet.
Oliver street, east side, 55 feet north of South

street 40x50 leet.

Mercer street, east side, 25 feet south of Bleecker street, 105x85x15x25x100.

WASHINGTON.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, April 8, 1875.

THE BLACK HILLS PROBLEM-THE GEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO BE ATTENDED BY AN ASTRO-NOMER AND A TOPOGRAPHER-SIOUX CHIEFS EXPECTED IN WASHINGTON.

The Secretary of the Interior has to-day authorized the Commissioner'of Indian Affairs to add a topographer and an astronomer to the Black Hills geological expedition. This action is based primarily on a suggestion made by Walter P. Jenney, the mining geologist, already appointed. that as the rate of progress must be necessarily slow, there will be time enough to have the topography of the country quite accurately determined and a reliable map made showing both the topography and the geology of the Black For a vertical wall at brown a bridge, of the Apple of th take the compass bearings of the more prominent land marks, sketch in general features of the country, and, if provided boundary between Wyoming and the reservation. Commissioner E. P. Smith, of the Indian Bureau, transmitting this suggestion says:-"The importance of such topographical survey is apmay be arrived at by the geological survey, it is also necessary to obtain the exact position of this country because of the question which will arise as to whether it is in Dagota, and thus belongs to the Sloux, or is in Wyoming and part of the public domain. From the best existing information the boundary line supposed to run near the centre of the Black Hills country." Finding upon inquiry that there are very few experts who are both topographers and astronomers, and that therefore it will probably be necessary to employ two persons for the service indicated by Mr. Jenney, Commissioner Smith proceeded to request authority to engage such service, adding that he was informed that such parties can probably be procured at a salary or \$125 to \$150 per month and necessary expenses. Secretary Delano thereupon granted the authority requested. It is expected that the Sloux Chiefs will be here to nego hate for the sale of this reservation about the 1st of May.

THE METICAN AUTHORITIES AND THE KICKAPOO INDIANS.

The Secretary of the Interior to-day sent to the State Department copies of the two reports recently received from Special Commissioner Atkinson in regard to his negotiations and arrangements for the removal of the Kickapoo Ingians from Mexico back to the United States. These official reports, it will be remembered, exhibit the existence of a very strong opposition and the commission of many overt acts on the part of the Mexican local authorities against the consummation of the proposed removal, although it has been formally determined upon by the general government of both countries. In transmitting Commissioner Atkinson's reports Secretary Delano submits to the judgment of the Secretary of State the propriety of communicating the intormation contained in them to the Mexican govern-

CHANGES IN THE JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT-RESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GEN-ERAL HILL-THE APPROACHING BETIREMENT OF JUDGE PECK.

The Attorney General has just received from Mr. Hill his formal letter resigning the office of Assistant Attorney General. He will retire after the adjournment of the present session of the Su preme Court in next May. The Department of ustice has no information concerning the reported intention of Judge Loring to resign his seat on the Court of Claims Bench during the next summer. A vacancy, however, is soon expected on the Bench of that Court by the retirement of tieth year, and has long been incapacitated by sickness from occupying his seat. General Paine, of Wisconsin, and Commissioner Douglass, have been mentioned by their respective friends as likely to succeed to the prospective vacancy; but the question of a specessor to Judge Peck will not omerally announced mattl the vacacey shall HOW ARKANSAS WAS ROBBED.

SIX YEARS OF PLUNDER.

Interesting and Amusing Incidents.

A RECONSTRUCTION CONSPIRACY.

LITTLE ROCK, March 25, 1875.

The State of Arkansas celebrates to-day a great deliverance. By proclamation of Governor Garland this day is kept as one of thanksgiving for the action of Congress which, it is hoped and believed, restored the State to permanent and peaceful self-government. Here, in the capital, the day has been singularly quiet. Banks and shops were mostly closed; many people went to church; there was turgey for dinner; and there were, among the older and substantial citizens, not a few heartfelt words of gratitude for quiet and peace, and the hope of prosperity. And that, so far as one could see, was all. The streets were not crowded, though the day was as long as a June day with us; I heard absolutely no political discussion either in streets or hotels: Poker Jack's arrival in the morning did not create even a ripple; and though there are probably a good number of disappointed men among the adherents of Brooks, it looks here very much as though both parties were glad to see the battle ended. Indeed, there is no doubt about the matter, for everywhere throughout the State reports show that the general settlement is accepted as final, and industry is reviving. More cotton and grain are being planted than in previous years; houses and fences are being repaired; fewer men are idle; there is a notable and sudden decrease of street loungers, black and white, in Little Rock. People are going to work again. It is creditable to parties that, so far as I hear and have been able to observe, there is no bitterness of feeling, no resentment. The victors are too well pleased to be anything but good-humored, and the vanquished take their defeat in good part. One of the most zealous, and, during the winter, ferocious Brooks men, a colored man, said to me to-dar, "What we need now is men and capital; we have peace secured; we are done with politics recover our losses and make the State rich. Give us only a good crop this year and we'll be out of

body of either party who had anything, even his labor, to lose, could any longer afford it. Here are a few figures which prove it. Arkansas has less than 650,000 people. It has about 120,000 voters. These owed in 1868, when reconstruction began in this State, about \$3,500,000 and had \$319,000 in cash in their treasury. The debt was State debt. The counties owed little or nothing. To-day, after seven years, the State owes at least \$15,700,000, and most of the counties have depts of their own sufficient to make them bankrupt. And for this huge indebtedness, which amounts, for State, counties, town and school districts, to probably \$20,000,000, the people have nothing to show, except some miles of railroad, on which they must pay for their passage whenever neither science nor the arts have been advanced: the old State House looks as dilapidated as when the reconstruction began, and has been changed in nothing except having its door lintels mutilated that a Brooks cannon might be squeezed into the hall; the schools are almost all closed because the school fund was stolen, and Little Rock is unpaved, though the conquerors of 1868 issued nearly shinplasters enough to have all the streets handsomely paved, and bonds enough besides to make dry crossings at the corners.

WHY THEY ARE THANKFUL

The State debt alone amounts to-day to more than \$115 for every voter. State, county, township and school debts, including scrip of all kinds, would probably bring the voters in debt \$175 a head. And the waole of this prodigious burden has been laid upon an impoverished and never very prosperous people in seven years.

HOW IT WAS DONE. Arkansas was, in 1868, a tempting prize to speculators. It had a trivial debt, a handsome little sum in cash in the Treasury, hardly any railroads and a people singularly innocent of political wiles. The young and enterprising men who then flocked in and seized a power and who held it so many years nad had some experience in what we call "We showed them some new tricks," "politics." said one of them to me; "the damned fools didn't around the State making stump speeches and | coffee mills at \$17 apiece. thought that was politics. But that thing's

played out." The new régime framed a constitution admirably suited to their ends, of which I shall speak further on. And then they begin the real work of plunder with an act granting State aid bonds to ratiroads to the extent of 800 miles, at \$15,000 per mile, or \$10,000 for such roads as had also land grants. Under this law 271 miles of road were built, of which the Fort Smith road is well built and well planned for 100 miles and is to be completed. It has received \$1,000,000 bonds. The Memphis and Little Rock Company butit 45 miles and received \$1,200,000, or \$750,000 more than it should have got. The Ouschita Company built 28 miles and got \$600,000, or \$180,000 more than it should have got. The Arkansas Centrai built 38 miles and got \$1,850,000; under the law it was entitled to but \$570,000. This was Senator Dorsey's road. The Pine Biuff built 70 miles and got \$1,200,000, or \$150,000 more than its share. The whole issue of railroad aid bonds made by the State in less than four years amounts to \$5,350,000. Many of the roads were not needed: all but the Fort Smith and the Memphis are uofin ished and will for some time remain so: \$1,110,000 more ponds were issued than even these fragments of roads were entitled to; the roads were to pay the interest, but of course did not, and the State now owes the whole sum, and when it can must pay the interest as well as the principal. Citizens of Little Rock point out to a visitor a number of pleasant residences at the new or court end of the straggling town, which, they say, were built by the men who handled these bonds.

LEVEE BONDS.
Next, in 1871, were issued \$3,005,846 in levee bonds. The law authorizing this lesue provided that no levees should be built except on the application of a majority of the property holders be benefited, and then only in a specified way, and the land benefited was held the payment of interest and principal of the bonds. Regular surveys were to be made and competent engineers were to decide, after all, whether the leves should be built. In practice, one or two engineers and half a dozen contractors made a Ring and built levees wherever they pleased; no formal petitions were required. no proper surveys made; logs and timber, and even flour and beef barrels were crammed into the bank, and meantime the Levee Commissioner, Benjamin Thomas, issued bonds whenever anybody whom he knew asked for them, and actually kept no books to show to whom, for what work, or when they were issued. The first ireshet washed most of these levees away, and of those that stood, many were so misplaced that planters were rutned because the levees, intended to keep the water out, only kept it in. Fortunately the contractors and swindlers took their pay and plunder in bonds; the swindle was too gross, and the bonds fell in value till they sold in the market for six or eight cents on the dollar, and can now be bought for that. The planters resisted in the courts the payment of interest demanded of them, and so carelessly had the whole work been done that the courts have held them exempt, because the most simple forms of law had not been complied with, and it is believed that the Levee Ring failed to get rich by its plunder, but the State owes on these bonds still. SCRIP OR SHINPLASTERS.

Next 'came the issue of scrip. The taxes and bonds were not enough for these monstrous robbors. They began to texne State, county, town-

snip and even school scrip-notes of hand of these corporations, some interest bearing. They issued State scrip at such a rate that by May, 1874, \$3,240,000 of this stuff had been taken up and destroyed, and there is supposed to be \$1,500,000 of it affoat now.

AMUSING MINOR PRAUDS. But these big thefts are not nearly as amusing as the smaller ones. One Tankersley, Speaker of the Assembly, for instance, got the people of Crark county to issue \$100,000 in bonds to the Ouschita Valley Hailroad, of which he was president. He found a broker in New York who offered him eighty per cent for these bonds, on condition that he would get a responsible bank to guarantee the payment of the interest for five years. He deposited with a bank \$30,000, which was the interest for five years at six per cent; received at once \$80,000 for his bonds, and pocketed \$50,000 by this pretty transaction. The town of Camden, in Quachita county, subscribed \$50,300, which he also pocketed; and he ran in debt for the little work he did on the ratiroad, and when he had got his money ran away himself to Colorado.

In 1873 Faulkner county was formed out of fragments of surrounding counties. This making new counties was a custom of the reconstructors. They thus created new offices. The new Faulknes county had no debt. It had no public buildings, and has none yet, except an eight-by-ten Court House given it by a Methodist church. It contains 7,000 people and has a property valuation of about \$900,000. Two young New Yorkers, Benton Turner and Charles Landers, were appointed Sheriff and County Clerk by the Governor. They collected the first year about \$40,000 in taxes, and this being insufficient for their uses they issued county scrip for \$50,000 more.
They collected the taxes in greenbacks and turned them in in depreciated State scrip, some of which they bought at thirty-five cents on a dollar. They sold offices, released prisoners, engaged in fraudulent registration, and finally they departed with their plunder, and the State

In Little Rock the Collector of Taxes openly engaged in brokerage, took out a federal license as a broker, and then drove a thriving trade with the citizens when they came to pay their taxes. You must understand that all State and county scrip was receivable at par for taxes. If a citizen had to pay \$50 for taxes, he might buy scrip at thirty cents and pay it at par. But the Collector bought scrip beforehand, when the market was low, and made his own bargain with the citizen. It is said he made his office worth \$100,000 a year. His way was to demand a molety of the tax, but in greenbucks. For this he gave a receipt in fall. Then he kept the greenbacks, and turned into the treasury the scrip be had bought up cheaply. This atrocious form of swindling became so universal that I have been told only one county tax collector in the whole State has uniformly turned into the treasury the same money which he received; and this when the allowances of the assessors and collectors were so great that in some years it cost twenty per cent

to collect the State revenue. The reconstructors were wise in their generation. They not only robbed at wholesale and retail, but they took care to preserve their own supremacy. The constitution of 1868 gave the Goyernor the appointment of almost all the local officers, even to the justices of the peace and registrars of elections. The Governor, of course, selected his own adherents, and did not scruple to send them from Little Rock, sometimes a hundred miles away into a strange county. So loosely was business conducted that when the new county of Howard was created, in 1873, one Hawkins, an illiterate carpenter of Little Rock, being appointed County Clerk, pegan his career by having county scrip printed before he even went down to take up his office, and issued the first of this scrip in Little Rock in payment for an ambulance to take his family to Howard county. Scrip of this county is now worth from ten to fifteen cents-and ne

wonder. Again, in Little Rock the merchants got alarmed at the over issue of scrip in 1869, and tool the plates from which these shinplasters were printed from the Mayor's office and destroyed them. But presently it was discovered that no account had been kept by the Mayor of the quantity printed and issued, and to this day, though \$10,000 worth of the stuff has been redeemed, more comes in, and no man can tell how much remains besind.

There is a small bridge in Eagle township, near Little Rock, which cost to build it \$500. Jack Agery, a colored man, was engaged to make some repairs on it. He brought in a bill for \$900; scrip was then worth ten cents, and he received his pay in it-\$900, which the county must some day redeem at par.

Sam Mallory, formerly engine driver on the Eric Ratiroad, became here a general of militia and State Senator ta 1871; was tater made Commissioner to audit old militia bills, and among the know a thing about organization. They just went accounts allowed by him and paid was one lor

Meantime taxes rose, until in Pulassi county, of which Little Rock is a part, they were at five per cent, and in some counties seven and three-tenths. Pulaski county scrip went down to ten cents, school warrants were bought at six, and some are even now worth no more. Other counties were been such that it is impossible to tell how much is really owed. In Pulaski county even the register of bonds has been, as a public advertisement in to-day's paper says, "lost or stolen," and the bondholders are now requested to come forward and register their bonds before the coupons shall

be paid. To return to the railroads. Where their embankments would serve as levees that were allowed levee bonds in addition to the aid bonds; and, not content with this, in one case twenty miles of track baving been laid on a road, accepted and the bonds received, the iron was taken up and removed to another road, where it sufficed to obtain from the treasury snother \$300,000 in

Why did not the people turn out these knaves This I will try to explain to you in my next lettel

THE ENVOYS AND THE CARDINAL

CHARLES NORDBOFF.

HOW THE PAPAL MERSENGERS ARE TO BE EN TERTAINED-THE CARDINAL'S EQUIPAGE.

The envoys from the Pope to Carothal McClosket have now achieved their mission. Count Mare foschi has given into the hands of the Cardinal the bigletto and succetto with which he was intrusted by the Holy Father, and Mgr. Roucetti has in proper form told His Eminence that the scarles berretta is waiting to be delivered to him when he shall choose to receive it. The envoys would seem to have no more to do than to participate in the celebration of the mass, during which Arch bishop Bayley will confer the berratting rosa pron His Eminence. It has been announced that this would occur on the 22d inst.; but Father Farley, the secretary to His Eminence, informed the writer yesterday that circumstances may cause its date to be changed. However long the cere mony is deferred the Papal envoys will remain here until it is over. In the meantime they will undoubtedly fare very pleasantly. All the wealthy Catholies of the city are desirous to entertain them, and will spare no effort to make the period of their stay in New York an epoch in their lives. They have already received numerous invitations to private dinners, some of which they have accepted. Yesterus alternoon the envoys visited the home of Major John D. Keiley, Jr., where they met a select party at dinner.

at dinner.

During yesterday Cardinal McCloskey remained at home until about hall-past four o'clock, at which time the writer met him leaving his residence sione to attend to some business. Except, perhaps, to ride through the Park with the envoys, Cardinal McCloskey will take no active part in the entertainment of his guests outside of his own house.

THE CARDINAL'S EQUIPAGE.

own house.

The coach which has been prepared for the need of His Emineace will be sent to his stable to-day, preceded by a team of magnificent horses. The care which was used in selecting these animals is said to be well repaid by its results in their formally presented to Cardinal Modificery within a lew days. A committee of the gentlemen who have subscribed toward the purchase of the team and count will visit His Eminence and request him to society the equipment of the committee will preuably consist of means. Rugens Keily, William 2.

O'Brien, James Lynon and James E. Nicholston.